

# Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

**From:** Kristin Larsen  
**Sent:** Thur 3/27/2014 3:11:13 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Copies of Literature are Needed to Participate in Evaluation of Research and Request for Expert Nominations - Data Practices Act Request and Request to Allow Access to Materials Needed for Participation

The Friends of the Cloquet Valley supports the request of Water Legacy for Freedom of Information under the Data Practices Act and requests the same data.

On Thu, Mar 27, 2014 at 10:08 AM, Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

The North American Water Office supports the request of Water Legacy for Freedom of Information under the Data Practices Act.

On Mar 26, 2014, at 9:04 AM, Paula Maccabee wrote:

Dear Shannon:

WaterLegacy repeats our request for a CD containing electronic copies of all of the wild rice literature in the attached list. Unlike the industry participants in this process, we have no resources to secure access to these documents, upon which the MPCA has relied in developing its preliminary analysis regarding the wild rice rulemaking process. This request is made under the Data Practices Act as well as to allow our participation in a legislatively mandated advisory group to be on equal footing with groups that have greater financial and staff resources.

WaterLegacy's request for an electronic copy of the requested articles is based on our need to be able to evaluate the MPCA's preliminary conclusions regarding the studies completed within the scope of the Advisory Committee, to which our group was appointed. Electronic copies of these articles are also needed in order for WaterLegacy to participate meaningfully in the MPCA's request for nominations to the scientific peer review panel. Failure to provide these materials would prevent WaterLegacy from participating effectively in the process to which we were appointed.

If the MPCA is claiming that there is some legal impediment to providing the requested materials, please provide copies of all statutes, rules, contracts, case law or other authorities that the Agency believes prevents compliance with WaterLegacy's request for access to the requested literature reviewed by the MPCA in this rulemaking process.

Please be advised that WaterLegacy has no commercial motive in requesting this action, has no intention to sell any of the information provided, and specifically requests the information in order to perform our obligations in connection with rulemaking and evaluation of research pertaining to wild rice.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Thank you,

Paula Maccabee, Esq.  
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**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**  
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Counsel/Advocacy Director for WaterLegacy

**From:** "Lotthammer, Shannon (MPCA)" <[shannon.lotthammer@state.mn.us](mailto:shannon.lotthammer@state.mn.us)>

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2014 4:32 PM

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**Subject:** Announcement of Wild Rice Sulfate Standard Study and Analysis Scientific Peer Review, and Request for Reviewer Nominations

**Resent-From:** Paula Maccabee **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

**Resent-Date:** Tue, 25 Mar 2014 16:32:43 -0500

Hi everyone –

Happy Spring! (Yes, that is meant to be sarcastic). I do hope you are all having a good start to spring, and I trust that warmer weather is just around the corner. In the meantime, I'm pleased to let you all know that we have wrapped up our RFP process for the scientific peer review of the Wild Rice Standard Study and Analysis. MPCA has contracted with Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) to convene and facilitate the scientific peer review. As you know, the peer review is the next step in the larger process in which MPCA will consider scientific information to determine if changes to the wild rice sulfate standard are

needed. For those of you interested in more information about ERG, please see the summary and web site link below.

We are targeting summer 2014 (likely late June) for the peer-review meeting to be held in the Twin Cities. ERG will be coordinating the peer review process, including the nominations of reviewers. Please see the attached "Scientific Peer Review Meeting Purpose and Process" announcement for more information about the peer review itself. Also attached is a "Request for Nominations for Scientific/Technical Experts for Peer Review," which provides details about how you can nominate scientists/engineers for the peer review; nominations will be accepted by ERG until April 15<sup>th</sup>. Both of the attached documents can also be found on the MPCA's new web page for the scientific peer review: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/kppq38rq>.

Pat and I are also starting to plan for the next Advisory Committee meeting, which we hope to get scheduled for some time during the first half of April. Please look for a Doodle poll on potential dates soon. At our next meeting, we'll be soliciting your feedback and questions on the MPCA's Preliminary Analysis of the Wild Rice Sulfate Study.

That's it for now. Please let me know if you have any questions about the scientific peer review process (or the Wild Rice Sulfate Standard Study and Preliminary Analysis) – we welcome your feedback. And please be sure to check out the request for nominations for scientific peer reviewers.

Many thanks!  
Shannon

More about ERG (ERG's website: <http://www.erg.com/services/peer-review.html>)

ERG is a highly experienced government peer review contractor. Continuously since 1984, ERG has organized hundreds of meeting, letter, and teleconference peer reviews of health and environmental documents under a wide variety of prime peer review contracts with government agencies, including the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency. These have ranged from simple letter reviews to peer review meetings of great interest to stakeholders and the public. ERG currently provides peer review services to EPA under two prime contracts — with EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment and EPA's Office of Water. They have also recently begun a 5-year contract to organize peer reviews for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For each peer review over the past 30 years, ERG has managed all stages, including identifying and recruiting nationally recognized experts in a wide variety of environmental and health fields; managing reviewer nomination processes; screening, selecting, securing, and compensating qualified panel members who have no conflicts of interest; supporting charge development; organizing and facilitating panel teleconferences and meetings; and preparing summary reports of reviewer discussions on the charge questions.

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